



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108 -4619

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Dear Members of the Early Intervention Community:

I am writing to announce the launch of the 2008-2009 Competency Indicator review process. This review is mandated in our Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD). (See box below).

A component of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 required that each state develop and implement a CSPD, or plan for personnel development. In Massachusetts, a certification process has been developed that assures all personnel working in EI achieve a set of core competencies. The MA CSPD states that core competencies will be reviewed and updated every three to five years. A review of competency indicators has been conducted in the past, including 1999 and 2002.

The purpose of this review process is to clarify the wording of the competencies. There are 9 competency areas, all of which will be reviewed. The competency indicators provide the foundation for the Massachusetts Certification for Early Intervention Specialists system (CEIS). The MA certification system will reflect the changes resulting from the competency review.

We are inviting interested members in the community to participate as part of a stakeholder group. Each member will be on a workgroup for a competency area or areas. The process will include individual review work by individuals, then review in small groups, followed by recommendations to ICC and DPH.

There will be other ways to participate in this process such as reviewing draft language, as well as providing input and feedback on the final product. The Department will publish the contact information of co-facilitators for each workgroup to encourage input from the broader EI community. The draft document to be presented to ICC will also be widely available for input in advance of the vote at ICC.

Application materials for this project will be available electronically at the EITC website www.eitrainingcenter.org.

The Department looks forward to statewide participation in this effort. If you are interested, please fill out the attached application and return by December 31, 2007 to:

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Sincerely,

Ron Benham
Part C Coordinator
Massachusetts Early Intervention Services

Enclosures:

Application form
Values of the MA Early Intervention System
Timeline and expectations

What is the CSPD?

The CSPD, or Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, is mandated by Part C of the IDEA. Each state is required to maintain a document outlining the state's plan for recruiting, preparing, qualifying, and retaining EI personnel.

In Massachusetts, the CSPD is reviewed and implemented by the Personnel Preparation Committee of the ICC. In combination with that committee's Strategic Plan, the CSPD provides the blueprint for professional development activities for EI staff in Massachusetts.